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CENTRAL FAX CENTER

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Patent Application Serial No. 10/589,129

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A ~~drying~~ heat pump apparatus comprising:

~~a heat pump apparatus in which a refrigerant is circulated through a compressor, a radiator, a first throttle apparatus, a heat exchanger, a second throttle apparatus and an evaporator in this order,~~

~~— a circulation duct through which drying air is circulated and in which said radiator, said heat exchanger and said evaporator are disposed in this order from an upstream side of flow of the drying air, and~~

a compressor for compressing a refrigerant;

a circulation duct for circulating drying air therein;

a radiator, disposed inside said circulation duct, for condensing the refrigerant to heat the drying air;

an evaporator, disposed inside said circulation duct, for evaporating the refrigerant to absorb heat from the drying air;

a throttle apparatus for controlling the refrigerant pressure;

a heat exchanger, disposed inside said circulation duct, for functioning as another radiator for condensing the refrigerant to heat the drying air or as another evaporator for evaporating the refrigerant to absorb heat from the drying air, depending on the refrigerant pressure controlled by said throttle apparatus; and

a drying room, connected to said circulation duct thus constituting a circulatory path for the drying air, for offering a space to place a subject to be dried.

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~~wherein the refrigerant in the heat exchanger absorbs heat from the drying air or radiates heat to the drying air.~~

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented): The heat pump apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a discharge-pressure detector for detecting discharge pressure of said compressor, and a throttle-apparatus controller for controlling said throttle apparatus depending on the discharge pressure detected by said discharge-pressure detector.

4. (previously presented): The heat pump apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a discharge-temperature detector for detecting discharge temperature of said compressor, and a throttle-apparatus controller for controlling said throttle apparatus depending on the discharge temperature detected by said discharge-temperature detector.

5. (previously presented): The heat pump apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising an air-temperature detector for detecting inlet air temperature of said evaporator, and a throttle-apparatus controller for controlling said throttle apparatus depending on the inlet air temperature detected by said air-temperature detector.

6. (canceled)

7. (previously presented): The heat pump apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the refrigerant is carbon dioxide.